

HEALTH  
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THEDWASTRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*20<sup>a</sup> Market Place, Downmarket*  
WEST SUFFOLK.

*Suffolk*



R E P O R T


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1943.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON.,M.B.,B.S.,B.Hy.,D.P.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Thedwastre  
in the County of West Suffolk for the year ending  
31st December 1943.

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Public Health Offices,  
Westgate House,  
Bury St. Edmund's.  
June 1944.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the  
Rural District Council of Thedwastre.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your  
favourable consideration my sixth Report as Medical Officer  
of Health for the year ended 31st December 1943.

Except in the case of items for  
which full particulars are required by the Minister of  
Health, the report has been limited on his instructions,  
owing to the War.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON,

M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.  
also Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket Urban, Mildenhall  
Cosford and Thingoe Rural Districts and  
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health - West Suffolk.

Sanitary Inspector.

Oswald J. Wyatt, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,  
Meat Cert. R.S.I., also Building  
Surveyor, Housing Manager and  
Petroleum and Explosives Officer.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	34,126 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year	8713.
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book.	2,539.
Rateable Value.	£26,781.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£111.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	133	72	61
Illegitimate	11	2	3
<u>Stillbirths.</u>			
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Deaths.</u>	130	70	60
<u>Birth Rate.</u>	Thedwastre	16.5.	England & Wales 16.5.
<u>Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total (live &amp; still) births.</u>	"	13.7.	
<u>Death Rate per 1000 resident population.</u>	"	14.9.	" " 12.1.
<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.</u>			
All Infants per 1000 live births.	"	34.7.	" " 49
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births.	"	30.0.	
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	"	90.9.	

5 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred (2 males and 2 females legitimate, 1 male illegitimate). 1 death from maternal causes (Heading 30), 22 deaths from Cancer, 1 from Diarrhoea (under 2 years), and no deaths from Measles and Whooping-cough were recorded.

On the following page is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures. The deaths are classified under the Headings given in the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths -1938.



CAUSES OF DEATHS.		Deaths at the Sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond District.															
HEADING	M = Male F = Female	Under 1 year.		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 45		45 and under 65		65 and upwards		TOTAL = Registrar General's figures.	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	
7	Other forms of tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
9	Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	
13	Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (m) uterus (f)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
14	Cancer of stomach & duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	
15	Cancer of Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	
16	Cancer of All other sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	7	4	9	8	
17	Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	9	8	11	
19	Heart Disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	28	19	30	22	
21	Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	2	3	
22	Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	
24	Ulceration of the stomach or duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
27	Other Digestive diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	
28	Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2	2	
30	Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
32	Congenital malformations, birth injury infantile disease	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
34	Road Traffic accidents	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
35	Other Violent Causes	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	
36	All other causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	
TOTAL		Males		3	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	4	-	8	-	70	-
		Females		-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	14	-	43	-	60	-



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge provides these facilities for a lump sum which covers also any specimens examined in emergency by the West Suffolk General Hospital.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. No Change.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The Local Nursing Associations which are financed partly by contributory scheme, partly by voluntary contributions, and partly by County Council grants, carry out this work through their nurses who are residing in the villages of Hinderclay, Great Ashfield, Woolpit, whilst some parishes are served by nurses residing at Stanton and Bradfield St. George.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. No Change.

(e) HOSPITALS. The County Council during the year provided additional Midwifery facilities in their St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's, but the District in common with many others still lacks adequate maternity accommodation.

## SECTION C.

1. (i) WATER. There are still no public piped supplies in the area; the inhabitants depend upon dug and bored wells. Many wells became dry towards the end of the Summer, and at Gedding it became necessary to cart water for several months to the 10 Council Houses. 19 water samples were submitted for examination from 13 bored dug wells, only 4 of which were shown on analysis to be satisfactory.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. A portion of the half brick drain was taken up and relaid in Mill Lane, Woolpit. A private drain at Beyton, after several tests, was found to be satisfactory.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. Owing to the difficulty in securing the necessary labour the watercourse at Walsham-le-Willows, and ditches in other villages have not received attention.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The closet accommodation is almost entirely of the pail type, privy vaults are confined in most cases to cottages with small gardens or farmhouses.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. In Thedwastre there are no Public Cleansing Schemes. The Women's Voluntary Service under the able leadership of Mrs. Holt Wilson collect salvage throughout the District.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement has been supplied

by Mr. Wyatt:-

### Dwelling Houses.

Total number of dwelling house inspections made under the various Acts	45
Total number of re-inspections thereof	44
Number of houses inspected after Infectious Disease	10

Drains. Inspections and tests.

16  
115



Various Inspections.

Slaughter Houses (Bacon Factory)	288
Butchers Premises.	23
Food Shops and Bakehouses.	166
Factories.	33
Shops.	26
Cowsheds.	75
Dairies.	75
Water Samples.	19
School Inspections.	12
Interviews.	56
Complaints.	34
Survey of premises for rats.	207
Building Surveyor.	3
Council Houses.	256
Evacuation.	103
Air Raid Shelters.	178
Miscellaneous.	123

TOTAL 1792.

Classified list of Housing Defects and nuisances abated during the year.

Roofs repaired	21
Chimneys repaired	4
Eavesgutters repaired	2
Ceilings repaired	5
Walls repaired	37
Dampness	23
Windows repaired	4
Staircases repaired	3
Doors repaired	5
Fireplaces repaired	7
Coppers installed or repaired	3
Sinks repaired	1
Floors repaired	6
Yard Paving	1
Wells repaired	2
Closets repaired or renewed	5
Others.	5

134.

In addition to the above repairs were carried out to the Council Houses and those requisitioned under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

Since November the Council have had the services of a Pest Officer, and from that date 200 premises have been inspected and 1809 rats destroyed.

Factory Act, 1937. 33 Inspections to Factories were made. Repairs to closet accommodation were required and remedied in one case.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. 26 inspections relating to the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 were made.

(v) CAMPING SITES. No applications for licence to occupy a site were made in 1943.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action necessary.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. Nil.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Nil.

4. SCHOOLS. The washing and sanitary accommodation was examined during 12 inspections.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. (1) (A) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 45  
(B) Number of inspections made for the purpose 39
- (2) (A) Houses recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 39

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 37.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

There were no proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 nor proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

4. Housing Act 1936-Part IV-Overcrowding.

Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Nil.  
Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1.  
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1.  
Number of persons concerned. 8.  
Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the local authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil.

The Council possess 331 Council Houses. By the end of 1943 the 4 houses in course of erection for agricultural workers were almost complete.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. The number of Registered Cowkeepers in the District increased by 4 in 1943 making 109 in all. 75 visits were paid to cowsheds and a similar number to dairies. It is gratifying to record that for the most part the cowsheds in the district have reached a very high standard.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. The Elmswell Bacon Factory is the only licenced slaughterhouse in regular use in the District. Slaughtering takes place on every week day. 288 visits were paid and the 46,444 pigs slaughtered during the year were all inspected. The meat condemned from the above number was as follows:-



	<u>Number Condemed.</u>	<u>Percentage.</u>	<u>Approximate Weight.</u>
Carcases	91	.20	16,077 lb
Heads	3501	7.58	45,513 lb
Plucks	1191	2.56	8,336 lb
Intestines	2242	4.83	
Kidneys	2229	4.80	556 lb
Leaf Fats	52	.11	118 lb

The above carcases were condemned for the following reasons:- Tuberculosis 73,Septicaemia 1,Moribund 13,Jaundice 2, Pleurisy 1,Peritonitis 1.

In addition the following foods were conderned:-  
158 lb Canned food (Meat,fruit fish,beans etc.)  
52 lb Putrified beef, 10½lb Sheep's liver,  
10 lb Cheese.

(c) ADULTERATION ETC. (d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION) No  
(e) NUTRITION (f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan) )  
(g) WATER CRESS )Change.

### SECTION F.

#### PREVALENCE OF,AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

##### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

	Total cases notified	-1	1	2	3	4	5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	9	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	4	1	-	1	-	8	-
Whoopingcough	19	-	12	3	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	71	2	7	5	4	7	8	25	10	2	-	-	1	1	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	100	2	19	8	5	9	9	28	14	3	-	1	1	9	-

Five cases of Infective Jaundice were notified in December 1943.

The number of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in 1943 was 100, which corresponded very closely to the 98 received in 1942.

166 children (100 age 0-4 years and 66 age 5-14 years) completed the course of Diphtheria Immunisation during the year. It is estimated that by the end of 1943, 82% of children under 5 years of age and 99% of children between 5 and 15 years of age had completed the immunisation course.

During 1943 61 cases of Scabies were treated - a decrease of 21 on the 1942 figure.

### T U B E R C U L O S I S

#### New cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15-24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-54	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
55-65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1

28 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year,Respiratory Male 7,Female 10, and Non-Respiratory Male 4, Female 7.

